



December 17, 2014

City of College Park
240-487-3500
www.collegeparkmd.gov

Mr. Adam Ortiz, Director
Department of the Environment
Prince George's County Maryland
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 500
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Mr. Ortiz:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in preliminary discussions regarding a North County animal services facility, and to review the draft scope of work for a feasibility study. At their meeting on December 9, 2014, the College Park City Council approved funding for a feasibility study in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The Council also authorized me to respond on their behalf with comments on the scope of work for the study.

The Council has not committed to any future funding for a North County facility, pending review of the results of a feasibility study.

The concept of a new North County animal services facility has the full support of the City of College. We have identified some issues for further discussion regarding the feasibility study:

- There has been no College Park City Council commitment for future, long term, shared funding of the construction, operation, or staffing of a North County facility. No further funding commitment will be considered until the feasibility study report and recommendations are available. The study should include a cost benefit analysis of all possible sources and uses of funds, and all options for construction and management of a facility.
- A North County facility could alleviate the City's reliance on volunteers to assist our Animal Control Officer with shelter and foster care, and shelter housekeeping when the ACO is not available. Opportunities for community volunteer activity would be expected to continue and increase with a North County facility.
- A North County facility could replace the current City animal holding facility with a more modern facility which is accessible to the public for ease of adoptions. However, if the feasibility study determines that the most cost effective and beneficial facility would serve all North County municipalities and communities, it probably should be constructed and maintained by County, private grants, and fee based funds, rather than Four Cities funding. Any potential tax differential provided by City funding of a North County facility would be negligible. It is estimated that an average College Park household

City Hall
4500 Knox Road
College Park, MD 20740-3390

City Manager
240-487-3501

City Clerk
240-487-3501

Finance
240-487-3509

Human Resources
240-487-3533

Parking Enforcement
240-487-3520

Planning
240-487-3538

Youth & Family Services
4912 Nantucket Road
College Park, MD 20740-1458

240-487-3550

Seniors Program
301-345-8100

Public Services
4601-A Calvert Road
College Park, MD 20740-3421

Code Enforcement
240-487-3570

Public Works
9217 51st Avenue
College Park, MD 20740-1947

240-487-3590

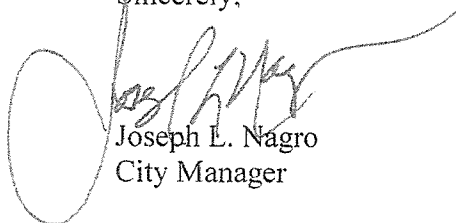
would only net an additional \$1.82 per year in tax differential if the County granted a 100% animal management tax differential. City property owners currently receive an 80% tax differential due to the City's existing animal control program. (Estimate based on US Census 2013 data with average single family dwelling valued at \$304,000).

- Joint staffing may be problematic. Staffing and governance of a North County facility by a consortium of County and local governments could be challenging. There would be some amount of efficiency gained in the City Animal Control program by not having to transport certain animals to the Upper Marlboro facility, and not having to maintain a City holding facility. However, the additional time available may be best used by increasing City ACO patrols and community animal care education, rather than assigning City staff time to assist at a North County shelter. The City ACO would be expected to continue close coordination with County AMD. And, the County AMD would continue to be the backup when the City ACO is off duty. Details of City / County cooperation in the adoption process, status of current private sector partnerships, etc., would need to be worked out in detail, and should be identified in the feasibility study.

The draft feasibility study should be edited to direct that all potential funding, construction, operations and staffing options be identified and compared for cost effectiveness and maximization of public and animal benefits for the County and municipalities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with DOE on this important project.

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Nagro
City Manager

cc: College Park Mayor and Council
Four Cities Coalition
County Council Member Lehman
County Council Member Glaros